

Facts About Tobacco Use in the United States

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, causing more than 438,000 deaths each year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).¹

- ◆ 160,372 die from cancer
- ◆ 131,503 die from cardiovascular disease
- ◆ 102,632 die from respiratory disease²



Nearly 44.5 million adults in the United States smoke cigarettes, or 20.9 percent of the adult population. Twenty-three (23.4) percent of men and 18.5 percent of women in the United States smoke.³



In 2004, the CDC issued an advisory warning people with a heart condition or those predisposed to heart disease to avoid all indoor environments where smoking is allowed. As little as 30 minutes of exposure to secondhand smoke can cause an immediate heart attack.

Smoking-attributable direct medical expenditures in the United States during 1998 were \$75 billion.²

- ◆ \$27,182 in ambulatory costs
- ◆ \$17,140 in hospital costs
- ◆ \$6,364 in prescription drug costs
- ◆ \$19,383 in nursing home costs
- ◆ \$5,419 in other costs

** Smoking-Attributable Expenditures are in millions and are calculated by multiplying total expenditures by Smoking Attributable Expenditures (SAE's).*

Between 1997 and 2001 the average annual costs of smoking-attributable productivity losses in the United States were **\$92.5 billion**. This does not include expenses due to cigarette-caused burns or secondhand smoke deaths.²

Sixty-nine (69) percent of Americans report smoking is not allowed in work areas (indoor public/common areas, such as, lobbies, restrooms and lunch rooms) and 61 percent report smoking is not allowed in the home.⁴

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. MMWR – Annual Smoking- Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Productivity Losses – United States, 1997-2001. MMWR Highlights. 1 July 2005. Vol. 54. No. 25.
 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Morbidity, and Economic Costs (SAMMEC). Average Annual Age-Adjusted SAM Rate per 100,000 among adults aged 35 years and older. Does not include burn or secondhand smoke deaths. 1997-2001.
 3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. MMWR - Cigarette Smoking Among Adults - United States, 2004. 2005. Vol. 54. No. 44.
 4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sustaining State Programs for Tobacco Control: Data Highlights, 2006. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health.

